

October 21, 2003

Chairman Bill Thomas Committee on Ways and Means 1102 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

On behalf of the 600,000 members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), I want to express our continued support for The American Jobs Creation Act of 2003.

We are especially pleased to see that a revised version, that is scheduled to be marked-up next week, maintains and expands key provisions that will significantly benefit our members. Specifically, the legislation will extend Section 179 expensing limits until 2007. Under current law, these limits are set to expire in 2005.

In addition, we support the following provisions that will benefit small business owners:

- Creation of a new 32 percent top rate for corporations with less than \$20 million of taxable income. Previously, this rate had only applied to corporations with less than \$10 million;
- Decreasing the leasehold and restaurant depreciation lives from 39 years to 15 years. Previously, the depreciation life had only been lowered to 20 years; and
- Expansion of the size of companies exempt from the corporate alternative minimum tax from \$7.5 million in gross receipts to \$20 million in gross receipts.

Again, thank you for including these provisions in The American Jobs Creation Act of 2003 and for your commitment to small business owners.

Sincerely,

Dan Danner

Senior Vice President of

Public Policy